

SENATE BILL 2060

By Bell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
relative to education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-944, is amended by adding the following language as a new subsection:

(l)

(1) Subsections (b)-(k) do not apply to the award of Tennessee reconnect grants under this subsection (l).

(2) As used in this subsection (l), "teacher education program" means a program offered by a Tennessee institution certified by the department of education pursuant to § 49-5-5603.

(3) To be eligible for a Tennessee reconnect grant under this subsection (l), a student must:

(A) Not be ineligible for the grant under § 49-4-904;

(B) Have been a resident of this state as required by § 49-4-905(a)(1);

(C) Be admitted to a teacher education program at an eligible postsecondary institution located in this state;

(D) Have provided tutoring to students through the Tennessee accelerating literacy and learning corps for at least one (1) academic year; and

(E) Agree to teach in a Tennessee public school system for one (1) academic year for each year of funding provided by a Tennessee

reconnect grant and sign a promissory note that stipulates the cash repayment obligation incurred if the teaching service is not fulfilled. If a student fails to teach in a Tennessee public school system for the number of years required to fulfill the student's obligation pursuant to the award of a Tennessee reconnect grant, then all funds obtained from the award of the scholarship must be repaid; provided, however, that no repayment is due if TSAC finds that it is impossible for the student to fulfill the obligation because of the death or permanent disability of the student.

(4) A student may receive the Tennessee reconnect grant under this subsection (l) until the student has completed the teacher education program. The student must continue to meet the eligibility requirements under subdivision (l)(3).

(5) A student who has an approved medical or personal leave of absence from a teacher education program may continue to receive the grant upon resuming study in the teacher education program so long as the student continues to meet all applicable eligibility requirements.

(6) Subject to the amounts appropriated by the general assembly, the amount of a Tennessee reconnect grant under this subsection (l) must not exceed the eligible postsecondary institution's cost of tuition and mandatory fees charged to students for the course of study at the teacher education program.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2022, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to students seeking a Tennessee reconnect grant on or after that date.